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In The Specification

Please replace the following paragraphs with the amended replacement paragraphs as follows:

On page 7, beginning line 6 to 11:

A1
The second or non-homogeneous (i.e., hybrid) SONET rings 160 comprises four ADMs denoted as 162, 164, 166 and the ~~second~~ first ADM 142₂₋₁ of the DCS system 140. The exemplary second SONET ring 160 also comprises a UPSR. The first ADM 162 of the second ring network 160 serves as a GNE and is coupled to the SONET element management system 125 via the management control signal ADMM.

On page 7, beginning line 16 to 32:

A2
The second or non-homogeneous SONET ring 160 comprises a hybrid SONET ring. That is, the non-homogeneous SONET ring 160 includes a network element (i.e., ADM 142₂₋₁) within the DCS system 140. As previously discussed, the ~~second~~ first ADM 142₂₋₁ may be logically decomposed and managed by the DCS EMS 120 as a sub-element of the DCS 140. However, doing so results in the remaining three ADMs 162, 164 and 166 of the second SONET ring 160 being managed by the SONET EMS 125 as an arc, rather than as a ring. Therefore, according to the present invention, to avoid managing the second SONET ring 160 as an arc, the ADM 142₂ is logically coupled to the other three ADMs 162, 164, 166 forming the second ring such that the SONET EMS 125 is used to manage each of the ADMs (162, 164, 166 and 142₂₋₁) forming the second ring 160. That is, the SONET EMS 125 views the four ADMs 162, 164, 166 and 142₂₋₁ as logically comprising a homogeneous (i.e., non-hybrid) SONET ring for management purposes. In this case, network management information is transferred between the SONET element management system 125 and the ADM 142₂₋₁ within the

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A2 DCS 140 via the gateway network element of the second SONET ring 160
(i.e., ADM 162).

On page ⁸~~7~~, beginning line 1 to 8:

A3 The DCS 140 is characterized, for management purposes, as a DCS network element that is coupled to a SONET network element via a digital link. That is, the DCS switching equipment within the hybrid DCS 140 is characterized as a DCS network element while the SONET equipment (e.g., ADM 142₂₁) within the hybrid DCS 140 is characterized as a SONET ring structure. Communication between the ADM 142₂₁ and the appropriate DCS equipment within the DCS 140 is achieved via a digital link, illustratively an ST-3 signal.

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